

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 31, 2005

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 30, 2005

SENATE BILL

No. 477

Introduced by Senators Soto and Alarcon
(Coauthors: Senators Kehoe and Romero)
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Torrico)

February 18, 2005

An act to add Section 8687.7 to the Government Code, relating to emergency services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 477, as amended, Soto. Emergency services: recovery process.

Existing law, the Disaster Assistance Act, requires that the Director of the Office of Emergency Services provide financial assistance to local agencies for public real property that is damaged or destroyed by a disaster.

This bill would ~~require~~ *authorize* the office to establish a *model* process ~~with guidelines to be followed in order for that would be made available to assist a community to recover in recovering from an emergency or a state-declared disaster and require would provide that the process may consider whether to designate the office as the an advisor and facilitator of for the community recovery process until each local agency in a community determines that the office's assistance is no longer needed, provide training, require, whether to provide that the office to be onsite as soon as practicable after an emergency or natural a state-declared disaster occurs, require whether to designate the office to facilitate the use of temporary services, whether to authorize the office to facilitate the establishment of temporary structures, including local assistance centers, showers and bathroom facilities, and temporary administrative offices, and require~~

whether to designate the office to encourage the participation of nongovernmental organizations in the community recovery process to supplement recovery activities undertaken by federal or local agencies.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 8687.7 is added to the Government
2 Code, to read:

3 8687.7. (a) As used in this section, the following terms have
4 the following meanings:

5 (1) “Community” means a geographic area impacted by ~~an~~
6 ~~emergency or a state-declared~~ disaster that includes the
7 jurisdiction of one or more local agencies.

8 (2) “Community recovery partners” means local, state, and
9 federal agencies, private nonprofit organizations,
10 nongovernmental agencies, faith-based organizations, and other
11 private entities.

12 ~~(b) The office shall establish a process with guidelines to be~~
13 ~~followed in order for a community to recover from an emergency~~
14 ~~or disaster. The process shall do all of the following:~~

15 ~~(1) Designate the office as the facilitator of the community~~
16 ~~recovery process until each local agency in a community~~
17 ~~determines that the department’s assistance is no longer needed.~~

18 ~~(2) Develop a training curriculum and provide regular training~~
19 ~~opportunities to communities and community recovery partners~~
20 ~~to assist them in recovering from an emergency or natural~~
21 ~~disaster.~~

22 ~~(3) Require the office to be onsite as soon as practicable after~~
23 ~~an emergency or natural disaster occurs.~~

24 *(b) The office may establish a model process that would be*
25 *made available to assist a community in recovering from a*
26 *state-declared disaster. The model process may include the*
27 *following:*

28 *(1) Whether to designate the office as an advisor and*
29 *facilitator for the community recovery process.*

30 *(2) Whether to provide that the office be onsite as soon as*
31 *practicable after a state-declared disaster occurs.*

1 ~~(4) Require~~

2 (3) *Whether to designate* the office to facilitate the use of
3 temporary services, including, but not limited to, direct assistance
4 to individuals, families, and businesses, crisis counseling,
5 disaster unemployment assistance, food and clothing vouchers,
6 communications systems, replacement of personal identification
7 documents, provision of potable water, housing, farm service
8 assistance, tax relief, insurance, and legal services.

9 ~~(5) Authorize~~

10 (4) *Whether to authorize* the office to facilitate the
11 establishment of temporary structures, including local assistance
12 centers, showers and bathroom facilities, and temporary
13 administrative offices.

14 ~~(6) Require~~

15 (5) *Whether to designate* the office to encourage the
16 participation of nongovernmental organizations in the
17 community recovery process to supplement recovery activities
18 undertaken by federal or local agencies.

19 ~~(e) The decision by a local agency to seek assistance from the~~
20 ~~office pursuant to this section may be based on the local~~
21 ~~residents' ability to continue effective community recovery.~~